



# CLEAN WATER ACTION

CONNECTICUT

## Testimony of Roger Smith, Campaign Director, Clean Water Action Energy and Technology Committee March 10, 2009

Testimony in support of House Bill No. 6632 *AN ACT CONCERNING ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
AND THE COORDINATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before this committee. Clean Water Action is a non-profit organization which has worked in Connecticut on energy-related issues since 1998.

**Clean Water Action supports the goal of this bill to improve coordination between state energy efficiency and clean energy programs. Our chief concern with this bill on how to do this without disrupting momentum in current efficiency and clean energy programs.**

If we were designing energy programs today I strongly doubt we would set up energy efficiency programs for electricity and natural gas customers under one board, fuel oil customers under another, and renewable electricity under a third if we wanted streamlined, coordinated programs.

This situation can be confusing to the public as each board has its own website and the missions of the boards overlap. Is geothermal a clean energy or energy efficiency technology? What about solar thermal? Why are furnace rebates offered by the Office of Policy and Management rather than the fuel oil conservation fund or the CT Energy Efficiency Fund? Why are customers of municipal utilities unable to use CT Clean Energy Fund or CT Energy Efficiency Fund incentives? The existing funds do make an effort to present a united front to customers, but we could do even better.

Board members for the three entities also overlap, with some organizations having to send representatives to three separate monthly meetings. It is burdensome for groups like mine to have to attend three separate monthly meetings to stay up to date on efficiency and clean energy.

Transitioning to a consolidated board can make sense with clear boundaries to keep the board from being unwieldy and having conflicts of interest. For example we support the bill language to make clear that fuel oil or natural gas companies are not part of the discussions and voting on matters related to solar electricity or fuel cells, and only matters related to oil or gas conservation.

I suggest an addition to section 2 to clarify it:

Any representative of an oil or propane company shall not vote on matters before the board unrelated to oil or propane conservation.

I strongly applaud the committee for including the following member on the board:

N) An individual with expertise in developing community-based energy efficiency and renewable efforts, appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;

This will help ensure a customer-focus for efficiency and clean energy programs and ensure that engaging civil society is part of the mission of the funds.

Thank you for your consideration,

Roger Smith, Clean Water Action

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## Home Energy Resource Sheet

### Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF)

Website: [www.ctenergyinfo.org](http://www.ctenergyinfo.org) or [www.ctsavesenergy.org](http://www.ctsavesenergy.org)

Phone: 1-877-WISEUSE

- The following programs change based on funding so please contact the Fund directly
- Rebates and assistance funded by natural gas and electric ratepayers
- List of state and Federal tax incentives also available on above websites

### Residential Heating and Electricity Efficiency programs (see contact info above)

**Home Energy Solutions-** in-home efficiency services and rebates for renters and owners heating with natural gas, electricity, and oil. \$75 for all customers for 2008/09

**Limited Income-WRAP and UI Helps-** free in-home efficiency assistance (all heating fuels)

**New construction program-** design help and appliance discounts

**Lighting** is discounted in participating stores and through the Smart Living Catalog

SmartLiving Catalog: <http://www.efi.org/smartliving/> or order toll-free at 800-527-4448

### Appliances

EnergyStar indirect or on-demand **natural gas hot water heater- \$300 rebate**

**Central AC-** rebate available- \$500 for 14.5 SEER/12.5 EER rated

**Geothermal heat pumps-** \$500 per ton (up to \$1500) for ARI-rated geothermal systems

**Gas and Oil Furnace Rebate-** \$500 rebate for Energy Star gas furnace or 84% efficient oil unit-call OPM at 1-866-940-4676 and click on "Furnace Replacement Rebate" at <http://ct.gov/opm/>

### Connecticut Housing Investment Fund (CHIF)

Website: [www.chif.org](http://www.chif.org)

Phone: 1-800-992-3665

- Low-interest home improvement loans up to \$25,000 (income limited) over 10 years
- Financing available for windows, doors, insulation, EnergyStar appliances, solar systems, replacement roof, etc.

### Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF)

Website: <http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/>

Phone: (860) 563-0015

- Funded by electric ratepayers to support renewable electricity generation

**Solar photovoltaic** (electric) rebates (out of funding until July 2010) No CT sales/property tax.

**Financing-** solar electricity lease program- no upfront \$ [www.ctsolarlease.com](http://www.ctsolarlease.com)

**Solar hot water heating** incentives coming, contact Clean Energy Fund. No CT sales/property tax.

### CT Clean Energy Options and CT Clean Energy Communities

Website: [www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com](http://www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com) and [www.ctcleanenergy.com/communities/](http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/communities/)

Sign-up to support clean, renewable electricity for just a few dollars per month. Residential sign-ups help earn free solar panels for towns which join the 20% by 2010 clean energy campaign.

**For More Information, contact Roger Smith or Chris Corcoran, Clean Water Action**

860-232-6232 [hartcwa@cleanwater.org](mailto:hartcwa@cleanwater.org) and [www.cleanwateraction.org/ct/](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/ct/)

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